

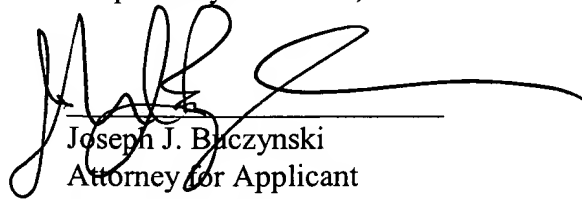
**REMARKS**

Entry of the above claim amendments, and early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Following a telephone conference with the Examiner, the present Second Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to clarify the record that claims 1-50 have been cancelled, and that claims 51-72 should be examined in the present application. Claims 51-60 and 62-72 are being identified as "Previously presented" because they were presented in a prior preliminary amendment filed with the application. Claim 61 was also previously presented in that preliminary amendment but is being currently amended to correct a minor typographical error discovered during preparation of this Second Preliminary Amendment. The Examiner noted that a substitute specification was subsequently filed which included claims 1-50. Therefore, to avoid any inconsistencies as to which claims are currently pending in the application, the Examiner requested that we file the present Second Preliminary Amendment.

Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appln. No. 09/846,434  
Second Preliminary Amendment dated March 10, 2005

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